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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/027,024	12/20/2001	Josef Schneider	4100-280	1112

7590

05/07/2003

COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE

Thomas C. Pontani

Suite 1210

551 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY 10176

EXAMINER

ALANKO, ANITA KAREN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1765

DATE MAILED: 05/07/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/027,024

Applicant(s)

SCHNEIDER ET AL.

Examiner

Anita K Alanko

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1765

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The metes and bounds of the claim are unclear because it is unclear what an "autotypical image-data process" comprises.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Kesper (DE 19914323 A1), Toshimoto (JP 06-166,162 A), Rückl (US 6,309,799 B1) and Dauer et al (US 5,601,022).

Kesper discloses a method comprising forming a mask comprising wax directly on a printing form by the ink jet method, the mask being used to form imaged spots and non-imaged spots for subsequent patterning, such as etching. Toshimoto teaches that a functionally equivalent technique and useful alternative to the ink jet method (Fig.1) to form a mask comprising wax on a printing form, is the laser induced thermal transfer method (Fig.5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to use the laser

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induced thermal transfer method instead of the ink jet method in the method of Kesper because Toshimoto teaches that they are functionally equivalent and useful alternative techniques.

As to claims 2-15, Toshimoto teaches that common printing plates can be made include the gravure printing plate, flexographic printing plate and screen-printing screen (paragraph [0003]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to make a gravure printing plate, flexographic printing plate or screen-printing screen using the modified method of Kesper because Toshimoto teaches that they are useful printing plates to make.

Toshimoto also teaches the use of photosensitive layers and conventional exposure and development steps. It would have been obvious to use a photosensitive layer and conventional exposure and development steps in the modified method of Kesper because Toshimoto teaches that they are useful to form printing plates.

Dauer or Rückl further teach that in the modified method of Kesper it would have been obvious to follow the formation of images with conventional exposure and development (for positive or negative images), etching or plating because they are useful steps for forming printing plates. It would have been further obvious to use an acid for etching because acids are conventional etchants.

As to claim 16, Dauer teaches that the mask can be formed in a printing machine and the printing plate is produced by means of said mask in said printing machine (col.5, lines 12-20). It would have been obvious to form the mask in a printing machine and that the printing plate is produced by means of said mask in said printing machine because Dauer teaches that this is useful for forming printing plates by the laser-induced thermal transfer process.

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Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited art shows methods of forming printing forms. Miyabe is cited to teach etching after imaging a lithographic plate.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anita K Alanko whose telephone number is 703-305-7708. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 8:00 am-4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Benjamin L Utech can be reached on 703-308-3836. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9057 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

Anita K. Alanko
Anita K Alanko
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1765

AKA
May 5, 2003